WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up port based comprehensive Chemical Estates

5019. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMA CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up port based Comprehensive Chemical Estates (CCEs) having integrated refining and end-product facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ports where the CCEs would be initially set up, have been identified and if so, their names and locations; and

(d) whether private entrepreneurs would be involved in the proposed project and foreign direct investment encouraged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The possibility of setting up shore based industrial estates for promotion of the chemical and petrochemical industry is being explored.

(c) No location has yet been identified.

(d) Yes, Sir. This would be the endeavour.

Sale of Naphtha produced by Refineries in Assam

5020. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 29th March, 1997, the Union Cabinet had decided not to install any Benzene production Plant in Assam and to sell the whole Naphtha produced by all the refineries to some promoter group;

(b) if so, whether this group has started any ancillary industry to produce and make use of the Naphtha produced by those refineries of Assam; and

(c) if so, when and what is the present status of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Government in March, 1997 had decided that Naphtha would be allocated first to the Assam Gas Cracker Project and then to other consumers.

(b) and (c) M/s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), a joint venture of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), holds a LOI for setting up a Gas Cracker Project in Assam. RAPL had taken some measures such as identification of site, part acquisition of land, conducting Environment Impact Assessment Study etc. However, in view of the objections raised by the Chabua Air Force Authorities, the project was required to be relocated. An alternate site has since been identified and Environment Impact Assessment Study has commenced. As regards issue of feedstock supply, RAPL and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have initialled the agreed clauses of Gas Supply Agreement on March 14, 2000. However, some issues are currently under negotiation between RAPL and OIL. RAPL maintains that the project is expected to be commissioned within 44 months from the date of finalisation of the Gas Supply Agreement and the handing over of the land, whichever is later.

Policy for Production of Urea By Private Sector

5021. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new Fertilizer Policy for development of production of urea by private sector in the country;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be declared; and

(d) the priority fixed by Government for determination of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) As per the industrial policy resolution dated 24th July 1991, no license is normally required for setting up / expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance. Due to near self sufficiency achieved in production of urea and also on the